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host to charge a higher price for expedited orders without incurring additional cost to provide the expedited service.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings.

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## DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figs. 1, 1A, and 1B are schematic block diagrams of a system according to one implementation of the invention. Figs. 1A and 1B are the top and bottom halves, respectively, of one diagram.

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2A-2B  
Figs. ~~2-2A~~ are schematic top views of layouts of print jobs.

Fig. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the designing of a print job on a web browser.

Figs. 4-4W are webpages according to one implementation.

Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing connection of elements of the system.

Fig. 6 is a flow diagram of a printing and post-press process.

Fig. 7 is a schematic diagram showing the farm configuration of servers in a system according to one implementation.

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram showing a queue processing system.

## DESCRIPTION

Implementations of the invention include interrelated elements. These elements and their relationships will first be discussed briefly and then later in more detail.

20 An implementation of a print job management system 10 is shown schematically in Figs. 1, 1A, and 1B. A potentially enormous number (e.g., thousands or even hundreds of thousands or millions) of individual and commercial customers 12, wishing to place orders for discrete print jobs (generally short run printing jobs, i.e., jobs of less than 40,000 units, typically 250-5,000 units), access the Internet 14 via web browsers 13 (or similar interactive communication software) running on personal computers or other electronic devices 11.

25 Customers can access the system through any one of several different types of entry ports 15 into the print job management system, where some types of entry ports may be characterized by their economic and market characteristics. The types of entry ports could include home office/small office computer entry ports 15a, intermediary ports (such as boutique stationery stores) 15b, and large corporate entry ports 15c (such as a Communications Department of a

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